

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 A-01 /092 W

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R 122230Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8185

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1806

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: NZ PINR ABLD

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S COURTESY CALL ON PRIMEMINISTER KIRK

1. SUMMARY: I PAID SEPARATE COURTESY CALLS ON PRIME MINISTER KIRK AND SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT WHITEHEAD JUNE 12. KIRK APPEARS TO BE SUBSTANTIALLY RECOVERED FROM COMPLICATIONS OF SURGICAL OPERATION WHICH, FOR A TIME, MAY HAVE THREATENED HIS LIFE. END SUMMARY.
2. ON JUNE 12 I PAID A FORTY MINUTE COURTESY CALL ON PRIME MINISTER NORMAN KIRK. ATMOSPHERE WAS RELAXED AND PLEASANT THROUGHOUT. PM WARMLY WELCOMED ME TO NEW ZEALAND.
3. KIRK INDICATED HE FELT MUCH BETTER AND ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY FROM COMPLICATIONS OF HIS OPERATION FOR VARICOSE VEINS, WHICH THE SURGEONS AT THE TIME HAD DESCRIBED AS MINOR. IN VIEW OF THE POST-OPERATIVE DIFFICULTIES, HOWEVER, KIRK STATED IT WOULD BE A LONG TIME BEFORE HE WOULD AGREE TO UNDERGO ANOTHER QUOTE MINOR UNQUOTE OPERATION.
4. IN SEPARATE CALL ON SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT WHITEHEAD, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHO ENTERED PARLIAMENT THE SAME YEAR AS KIRK, HE REMARKED

ENTHUSIASTICALLY ON A RECENT TRIP HE HAD MADE TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE FARMING OPERATIONS HE HAD OBSERVED THERE HAD BEEN IMPRESSIVE; PARTICULARLY A LARGE FARM HE HAD SEEN NEAR THE SOVIET-CHINESE BORDER. I RESPONDED THAT HE SHOULD VISIT THE UNITED STATES WHERE I WAS SURE HE WOULD FIND A MUCH MORE IMPRESSIVE AGRICULTURAL PICTURE.

5. I INFORMED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE UNITED STATES HOPED TO CONSTRUCT ITS CHANCERY IN WELLINGTON IF A SUITABLE CONTRACT COULD BE NEGOTIATED. SINCE THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST CHANCERY BUILT AS A CHANCERY IN THE CAPITAL, I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WE WOULD BE EXTREMELY PLEASE IF HE WOULD JOIN IN THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY IF THE PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY. HE INDICATED HE WOULD DO SO. SELDEN

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